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Making sense of the world

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS

THE WEEK

GOAL!

Top teams
bring thrills to
the 2022 FIFA
World Cup

p18





DID YOU KNOW?

William, the Prince of Wales, supports nonprofits focused on the environment, homelessness, and mental health.



Founders of the organizations that won the 2022 Earthshot Prize

A first for Prince William



In advance of the award ceremony, the Earthshot Prize unveiled a new TikTok account. Its first post featured a brief introduction by Prince William and a roundup of the finalists for the prizes. The prince is active on social media, but this was the first time he appeared in a TikTok.

Earthshot Prize awarded

The winners of the second annual Earthshot Prize were announced on December 3. The five recipients were organizations whose missions focus on protecting the planet.

What is the Earthshot Prize?

The prize was created in 2020 by William and Kate, the UK's Prince and Princess of Wales, through their Royal Foundation. The goal is to recognize and support entrepreneurs whose start-up organizations will help the planet and stabilize the climate. The prize was inspired by former President John F. Kennedy's Moonshot challenge, which encouraged innovation in science and technology and propelled humans to the Moon. The prize is given in five categories that represent Earthshot's main goals: to protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world, and fix our climate. Each winner receives about \$1.2 million to help expand their ideas and business.

Who were the winners?

One prize went to Mukuru Clean Stoves of Kenya. This start-up, founded by women, designs and builds inexpensive stoves that

reduce air pollution by burning a product made from charcoal, wood, and sugarcane. Kheyti, of India, was honored for Greenhouse-in-a-Box, which shields farmers' crops from pests and bad weather while saving water and increasing harvests. A third winner was Indigenous Women of the Great Barrier Reef, which trains women to become rangers who protect the landmark reef in Australia. Another honoree, Notpla, from the UK, has created an alternative to plastic made from seaweed and plants. The product has been used in more than one million takeout food containers. And 44.01, a firm based in Oman, received a prize for reducing levels of carbon dioxide by converting air pollutants into solids and storing them underground.



President John F. Kennedy

How were the awards given?

The Earthshots were awarded at a ceremony at the MGM Music Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. Guests, performers, and award presenters included broadcaster and environmental activist Sir David Attenborough; musicians Annie Lennox, Chloe x Halle, and Billie Eilish; soccer star David Beckham; actors Shailene Woodley and Rami Malek; and elected officials including Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Utah

Senator Mitt Romney, and John Kerry, the top US climate official. Guests were asked to wear "pre-loved outfits" (meaning used clothing), and the bushes and small trees that decorated the stage were later planted at schools and in neighborhoods around Boston.

What was the reaction?

Charlot Magayi, who founded Mukuru Clean Stoves, called it a privilege to receive the Earthshot Prize. "Today, we have an opportunity to transform the lives of millions," Magayi said. People praised the star-studded event for drawing attention to the struggle to reverse climate change. "You need the spectacle, the excitement to get people to be aware of these issues," Katherine Dafforn, cofounder of Living Seawalls and an Earthshot finalist last year, told the *Boston Globe*. President Kennedy's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, attended the event and said that as a result of the awards, "I think we'll be able to look back in 60 years and say that we saved our planet."

What will happen next?

The winners will get back to work, using their prize money to strengthen their efforts. Five recipients of the Earthshot Prize will be named each year until 2030. Nominations for the 2023 prize opened on December 5.



Arrival at Chinese space station

On November 30, three astronauts with the Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA) arrived at the nation's new space station, called Tiangong ("heavenly place" in Chinese). Tiangong is the third space station ever built. The International Space Station (ISS) has been in operation since 2000, and Russia's Mir space station launched in 1986 and shut down in 2001.

The taikonauts (astronauts) Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming, and Zhang Lu are part of the Shenzhou-15 mission. They will spend five to 10 days with the members of Shenzhou-14, who have been at the station since June 2022. When the Shenzhou-14 crew leaves, it will mark the first in-orbit crew transfer at the new station.

The new crew will spend six months aboard Tiangong. They will oversee completion of the new station and conduct more than 40 experiments and tests. The CNSA plans to send people to the Moon by 2030 and take samples from an asteroid (chunk of ancient space rock) by 2025. Chinese rovers are already exploring the Moon and Mars.



From left: Zhang Lu, Deng Qingming, and Fei Junlong



Beekeeping in Slovenia made the list.



A masked Talchum performer in Korea



Silk weaving



French baguettes

HOW BIG IS THE BREAD?
In 1920, France established strict guidelines stating that baguettes must be 30 inches long and weigh 8 ounces.

Additions to cultural heritage list

On November 30, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made 39 additions to its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. They included the French baguette, a bear festival in the mountains of France and Spain, silk production in several Middle Eastern nations, and Japanese ritual dances. The list of more than 650 items includes objects, events, and practices that are unique, help build awareness of other societies, and carry great cultural significance.

The long, slender loaf of bread called the baguette is closely connected to France's identity. Its inclusion on the list "celebrates the French way of life," said UNESCO director-general Audrey Azoulay, who is French. The nation produces about 16 million baguettes per day.

Also new to the list is the practice of weaving silk in seven nations, including Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan. Farmers raise silkworms, then spin their silk into thread. The traditional practice of beekeeping in Slovenia was also added. Slovenians have been raising bees for centuries, and the nation is famous for its different honeys.

UNESCO recognized Talchum, a performing art in Korea in which musicians and masked performers use dance, drama, and music to comment on social issues. The organization also added bear festivals in the Pyrenees Mountains, where young men run around in bear costumes to celebrate spring and the relationship between humans and nature. Other selections included string bands from Hungary, a form of dance in Zambia, and bell ringing in Spain.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HELPING HANDS

When a dolphin got stranded on a beach in the UK, marine animal rescuers leapt into action. Over the course of three to four hours, they lifted it onto a tarp and carried it back out to sea. "He swam off strongly," said one rescue worker.



The dolphin

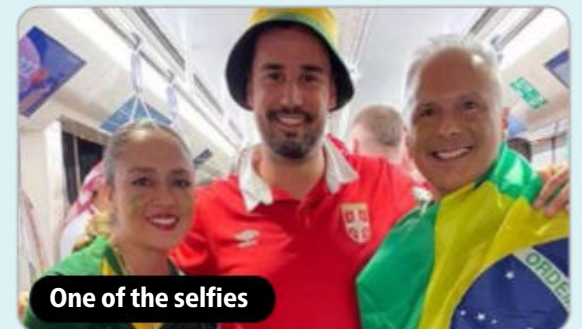


A COMMEMORATIVE COIN

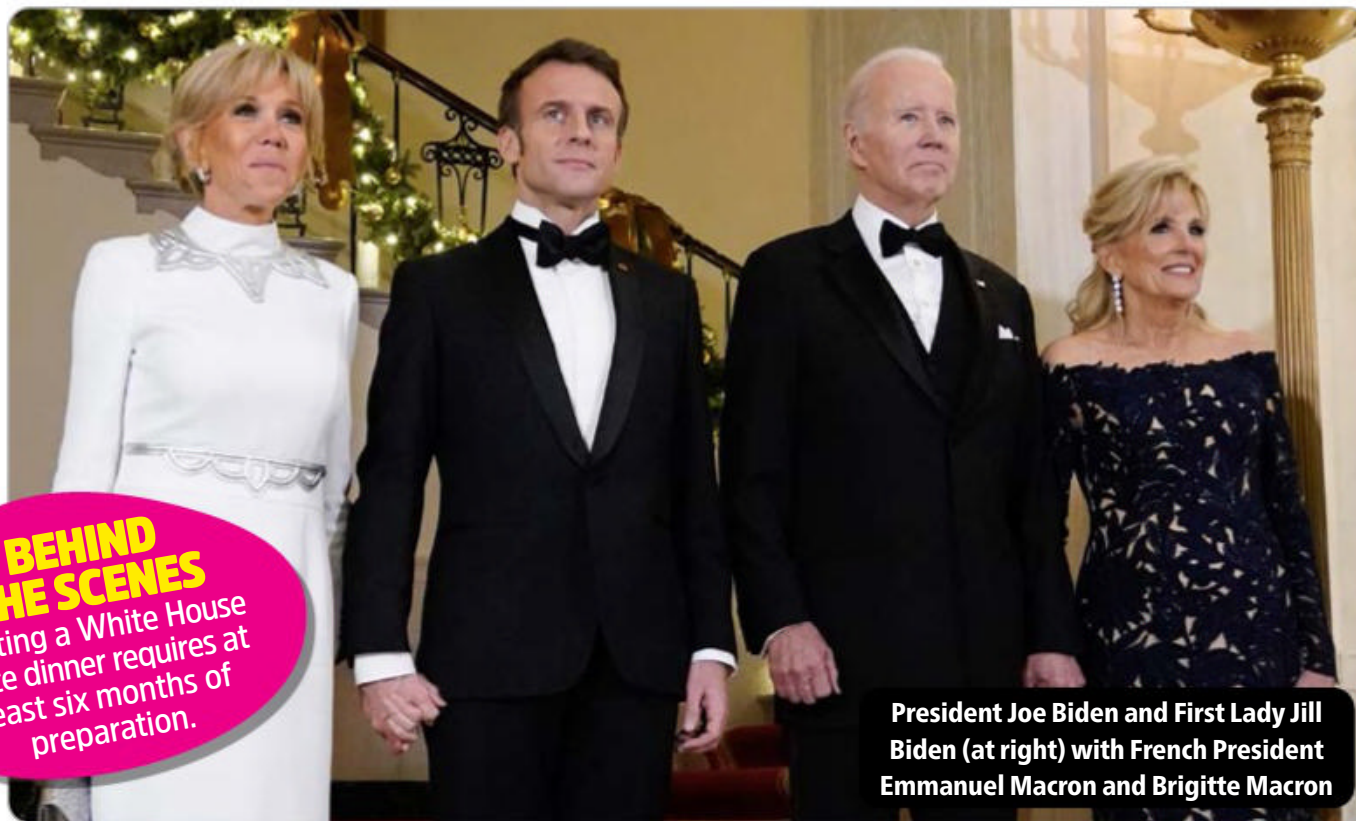
The Rolling Stones, a legendary British rock band, are featured on a new collectible 5-pound (\$6.04) coin, released as a tribute to the band's 60 years together. The Stones, who traveled across Europe on their Sixty tour earlier this year, said in a statement, "We are delighted to be honored."

SUPERFAN SELFIES

Some soccer fans collect jerseys or balls, but Sam Williams collects fans. The 29-year-old traveled from Wales, in the UK, to Qatar on a quest to take a photo with supporters from each of the 32 countries playing in the FIFA World Cup. It felt like "playing a large-scale hide-and-seek," Williams said. "It was great."



One of the selfies



BEHIND THE SCENES
Hosting a White House state dinner requires at least six months of preparation.

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden (at right) with French President Emmanuel Macron and Brigitte Macron

The first state dinner



Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th US President, was the first to host a state dinner honoring a foreign leader. In 1874, he welcomed King Kalakaua of Hawaii, who was seeking trade opportunities with the US. Kalakaua was the last king of Hawaii. The island nation became a US territory in 1898 and the 50th state in 1959.

White House hosts official state dinner

On December 1, President Joe Biden hosted his first state dinner since taking office in 2021. He and First Lady Jill Biden welcomed the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and his wife, Brigitte Macron, to the formal event, which was held on the South Lawn of the White House in a heated tent. France is one of America's oldest and most important allies.

What is a state dinner?

A state dinner is an expression of goodwill — a way for a President to honor a leader who is officially visiting the US from another country. At the event, the two leaders exchange toasts in a show of diplomacy and to demonstrate the strength of their alliance. US Presidents have hosted more than 200 state dinners since the

tradition began in 1874, and this was the first one held since the start of the pandemic.

Who were some of the guests?

More than 330 guests attended the state dinner, including top officials in Biden's administration and Democratic and Republican members of Congress. Notable Americans, such as Tim Cook, the top leader of Apple, actress Ariana DeBose, and US poet laureate Ada Limón, also attended. Award-winning singer Jon Batiste, who is from New Orleans, Louisiana, a city shaped by French and American culture, provided musical entertainment.

What were some of the details?

Many of the evening's details were selected to showcase outstanding qualities of America,

including the menu, which featured lobster from Maine and cheese from California. Decorations celebrated that the US and France share the same official colors of red, white, and blue. The tables were set with blue silk cloths and red candles. White irises, the official flower of France, were arranged in bouquets with blue delphiniums.

What remarks were exchanged?

Both Biden and Macron offered remarks that reinforced the bond between the two countries. France was the first country to "fly the American flag after our revolution," Biden said about the long friendship between the US and France. "Shoulder to shoulder," we will work together for the future, Macron said. Biden concluded his remarks with "Vive la France. And God bless America."



WORD OF THE WEEK

CULTURE

The word "culture" began with the Latin *colere*, meaning to "cultivate" or "grow" plants. The earliest uses of "culture" in English were about nurturing the land. But the word gradually took on the idea of developing the mind too. Today, "culture" can describe artistic and social developments achieved by people.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

December 11, 2009

Angry Birds game is released

On December 11, 2009, the game Angry Birds was released for free for people to download and play. Developed in Finland, it featured birds defending their flock's eggs against green pigs. It was an instant hit, and within two years, more than 100 million people had played it. The game later inspired two popular animated films: *The Angry Birds Movie* in 2016 and *The Angry Birds Movie 2* in 2019.





Hakeem Jeffries

House Democrats elect leaders

Democrats in the House of Representatives made history when they elected their leaders for the next session of Congress. Hakeem Jeffries of New York will be the first Black person to serve as minority leader. Peter Aguilar of California will be the party caucus chairman, becoming the top-ranking Latino in House history. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts was elected as whip. Republicans are expected to elect their House leaders in January.



Trains will keep running.

Railway shutdown averted

Trains will continue to deliver goods across the US after a law was passed that made it illegal for railway workers to strike (walk off a job). A railway strike during the holiday season could have cost the US economy \$2 billion per day, experts said. Under the new law, workers will have their pay increased over the next five years but will not receive paid sick days, which they had advocated for.



Color of the year for 2023

Pantone, a color consulting company, revealed that Viva Magenta is its color of the year for 2023. It called the color brave, fearless, and optimistic. Its red tone, Pantone said, expresses "a new signal of strength." Viva Magenta also comes from one of the strongest natural dye families, and Pantone said it chose the color to acknowledge people's growing appreciation for nature.



Taylor Swift



Harry Styles



Bad Bunny



Billie Eilish

DID YOU KNOW?
Spotify has more than 420 million users around the world.

Spotify releases top music lists

Millions of Americans received their Wrapped lists from Spotify, the world's largest music streaming service provider, on November 30. Since 2016, Spotify has sent users their own personalized Wrapped lists, which summarizes the songs and artists they have spent the most time listening to in the past year.

To compile the lists, Spotify counts every song a user has listened to for at least 30 seconds. Spotify also released lists that reveal the most commonly streamed artists, albums, and songs among users in the past year.

Puerto Rican musician Bad Bunny was the most streamed artist in the world, and his album *Un Verano Sin Ti* was the most listened to in the US and worldwide. "As It Was" by English musician Harry Styles was the most commonly streamed song, both globally and in the US.

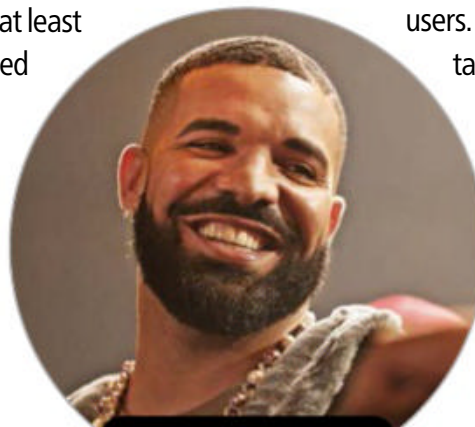
Taylor Swift was the second most streamed artist in the world. She was also the most "viral"

artist of 2022, meaning that her music was shared to social media more than any other artist's.

In the US, Canadian singer Drake was the most streamed artist, followed by Swift. Styles's new album, *Harry's House*, was the second most streamed album. "Heat Waves" by Glass Animals was the second most streamed song.

This year, Spotify did something new for users. It revealed how their musical tastes changed depending on the time of day. It also assigned users their own Listening Personality, such as "The Adventurer," "The Deep Diver," or "The Replayer," based on their listening habits and choices. Many users shared this information on social media.

Some musicians, including Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish, sent out video messages thanking their fans. Eilish, who has been a top artist on previous Wrapped lists, said, "I just wanted to, really quick, say how much I love all of you who have shown me support this year and over the years."



In 2022, Drake was the most streamed musical artist in the US.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Escaped pigs forage at Oklahoma elementary school" UPI





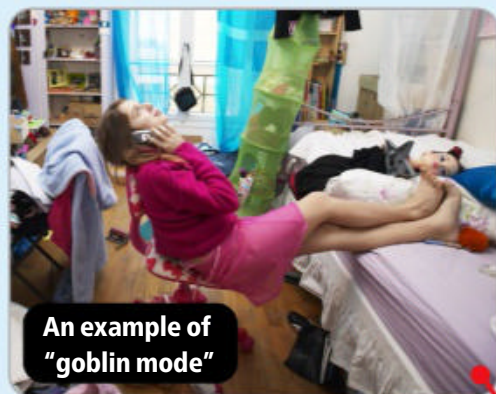
Around the world

Turtles face threats.



United Kingdom And the word of the year is...

The Oxford English Dictionary announced its 2022 Word of the Year: "goblin mode," defined as behavior that is messy, lazy, greedy, or self-indulgent, like wearing pajamas all day. The winning term, which caught on through social media, is the first ever chosen by the public. It won with 318,956 votes (93% of the total).



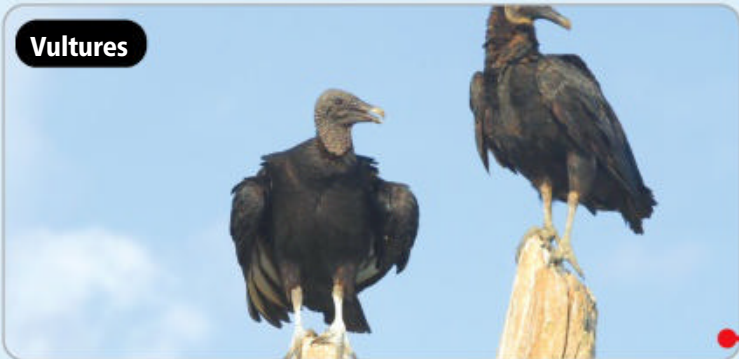
An example of "goblin mode"



Montreal, Canada Countries meet to discuss environment

More than 190 countries are sending representatives to Montreal, Canada, for the COP15 conference, where they will discuss a plan to protect the Earth's plant and animal life and natural habitats. One proposal calls for conserving 30% of the planet's land and water by the year 2030. The populations of numerous animal species are declining, and nearly 25% of the Earth's natural habitat could disappear by 2100.

Vultures



Veracruz, Mexico Migrating birds may boost tourism

A team of environmental groups, universities, and farmers are attempting to boost tourism in Mexico by raising awareness of a spectacular bird migration known as Rio de Rapaces, or "river of raptors." Between August and November each year, thousands of hawks, kites, falcons, vultures, and eagles fly across the coastal city of Veracruz to escape the cold winter weather.



Posing with the mural



Chiclayo, Peru Students find ancient mural

A group of student archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) have unearthed a 1,000-year-old mural. The 98-foot-long mural shows mythical scenes and will help historians learn more about ancient societies in Peru. Professor Luis Jaime Castillo described the discovery as "the most exciting and important find of recent years."



Mumbai, India Plans to build new homes for the poor

Gautam Adani, one of Asia's richest men, is set to redevelop the Dharavi neighborhood in Mumbai, India, one of the continent's largest slums (cramped, poorly constructed housing). Better homes will be built for about half of Dharavi's one million residents. Some people have criticized the plan, saying it will leave many residents homeless. Many families in Dharavi have been there for more than 60 years.

Dharavi district



GETTY IMAGES (7); NEGRO ET AL.; SCIENTIFIC REPORTS; ALAMY; SÂM GHAYAMI



Berlin, Germany **Streets get new names**

Several streets in Germany's capital, Berlin, have been renamed to reflect the country's diverse society. Some of the streets are now named for Germans who ruled African colonies (areas taken over by European countries, mostly in the late 19th century). Others honor African leaders such as Rudolf and Emily Duala Manga Bell.



Prague, Czech Republic **Christmas market reopens**

Prague's famous Christmas market has reopened after two years of being canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. One difference this year is that fewer lights are being used because of higher energy costs. Energy-saving light bulbs have also been strung on the city's 80-foot Christmas tree, and holiday lights will no longer be kept on all day as they had been in past years. The lights will be on from 4 pm until midnight only.



Iran **Morality police reportedly shut down**

Iran's morality police force, which enforces a strict Islamic dress code for women, has been closed down, according to one chief lawmaker. However, the country's law requiring women to wear a hijab (head scarf) remains. Since September, women have been protesting for equality and greater rights. Many people view the elimination of the morality police as a victory, but others believe the closure is only temporary.



Queensland, Australia **Reef's "endangered" status debated**

Tanya Plibersek, an Australian official, has said her government will resist putting the Great Barrier Reef on the "endangered" list overseen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Rising sea temperatures have put the reef's corals at risk, UNESCO says, while Plibersek said her government is already acting to protect them.

Spain and Portugal **New theory about ancient owl art**

 A new study found that owl-shaped stone plaques from the Copper Age (3500 BCE to 2300 BCE), discovered in Spain and Portugal, could have been toys made by children about 5,000 years ago. Researchers drew their conclusion after comparing the ancient owls to modern-day owl drawings created by children. Researchers also suspect children added decorative feathers into the holes punctured at the top.





The big debate

Are climate protests going too far?

Some activists use bold tactics, but others say that weakens their cause.

What you need to know

- In July, climate activists in the UK glued their hands to the frame of a painting called *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci.
- In September, activists deflated the tires of 600 SUVs in nine countries.
- In October, protesters in the UK threw soup on Vincent van Gogh's painting *Sunflowers*.
- In November, protesters in four US states blocked entrances to private airports, preventing planes that use a lot of fuel from taking off.



Protesters in front of a soup-covered *Sunflowers*

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1773, American colonists held the Boston Tea Party, a protest that led to the Revolutionary War.

Environmental activists hold different kinds of protests to get people to take urgent action against climate change (the long-term changes to weather patterns largely caused by human activity). Though many nations, businesses, and citizens have promised to reduce the emissions of gases that cause climate change, protesters say they're not moving quickly enough. Many protests, like those held by activist Greta Thunberg, are peaceful and calm. Others, however, are meant to shock and anger people. Critics say attacking art and blocking roads make activists and their causes look bad. What do you think? Are climate protests going too far?

Yes—they don't help the cause

It's important to motivate people to fight climate change, but these protests are getting attention for the wrong reasons. Attacking things people value, such as famous paintings, only annoys and upsets people and prevents them from supporting climate action. Also, many targets, like old paintings, have nothing to do with climate change, which is confusing. Many protests affect ordinary people, not government officials and business leaders who actually have the power to make change. In 2021, protesters in the UK blocked roads for weeks, which prevented people from getting to work. That's not going to win over any supporters.

No—history shows it works

An issue as dire and urgent as climate change demands disruptive protests—it's the only way to get people's attention. The protesters who threw soup at *Sunflowers* did it to make the point that people care about the wrong things. One of them shouted, "Are you more concerned about the protection of a painting or the protection of our planet?" But they never intended to harm the painting because they knew it was protected by glass. Disruptive protests have often changed history, from the fight for women's right to vote to the civil rights movement. To make a big change, sometimes you need to make a lot of noise.

YES Three reasons climate protests are going too far

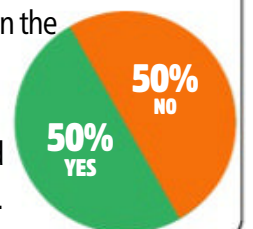
- 1 Controversial protests can make people less likely to support a cause.
- 2 It makes no sense to target things like famous paintings, which have nothing to do with climate change.
- 3 Many of the protests affect ordinary people, not those who have the power to do something about climate change.

NO Three reasons climate protests are not going too far

- 1 Disruptive protests are the only way to draw people's attention to a problem as urgent as climate change.
- 2 The protesters don't intend to do any real damage. They only want to make a point.
- 3 History has shown that these types of protests work. Sometimes they're the only thing that does.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if cold weather is better than hot weather, which led to the first-ever tie in the big debate: 50% of you said yes, and 50% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think climate protests are going too far, or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Inspiration from the past

Allison Gilbert's new book is about another journalist with big dreams.

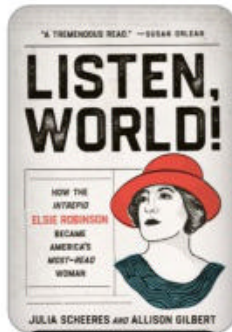
From a young age, Allison Gilbert loved to write—and now the award-winning journalist is telling the story of a trailblazer whose ambitions were similar to hers. Gilbert's new book, co-authored with Julia Scheeres, is *Listen, World!: How the Intrepid Elsie Robinson Became America's Most-Read Woman*. It is the first biography ever written about Elsie Robinson, one of the most influential news columnists in US history.

Gilbert, 52, got started in journalism by writing for her high school and college newspapers and went on to cover major stories for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN, and other news outlets. She told *The Week Junior* that she discovered Elsie Robinson while going through her mother's belongings after she died. When she found a poem attributed to

Elsie Robinson and did some research about her, Gilbert learned that Robinson was a prominent journalist in the 1900s. She was the highest-paid female writer at the Hearst media empire and the nation's most-read columnist.

Gilbert was inspired by Robinson's story. "She had no money, no resources, no connections, yet she had a dream," Gilbert said. "And through her own determination and hard work, she attained it." Gilbert wrote *Listen, World!* so others could learn about Robinson and she would not be lost to history.

The advice for aspiring writers Gilbert shared with *The Week Junior* comes from Robinson. "Elsie would say that nobody is anointed a writer—you are a writer because you say you are," Gilbert said. "She would also say that writers write, so just begin."



The new book

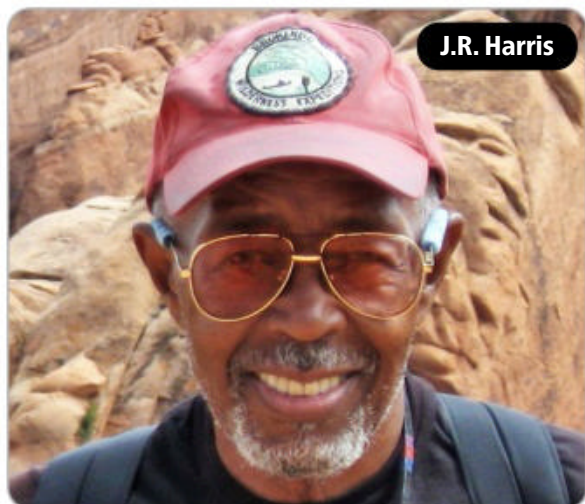


Allison Gilbert

WOW!
American writer Elsie Robinson's column ran for more than 30 years and was read by more than 20 million people.

A life of adventure

J.R. Harris, age 78, has spent his life seeing the world. He has visited more than 50 countries, hiking up mountains and exploring deserts and glaciers. On his most recent adventure, he backpacked through Sweden's Lapland. His passion for the outdoors was sparked as a Boy Scout in New York's Catskill Mountains—and as an author and speaker, he hopes to ignite this spark in others. "You are never too young to start dreaming about your future," Harris told *The Week Junior*. "And remember, when you start dreaming, dream big."



J.R. Harris



Leanne Fan

Teen wins top prize

This October, Leanne Fan, a 14-year-old from San Diego, California, won the title of America's Top Young Scientist with a \$25,000 prize. Her winning invention, titled the Finsen Headphones, aims to use blue light therapy to detect and treat mid-ear infections. They were inspired by 1903 Nobel Prize winner Niels Finsen, whose work involved light therapy. Fan has been inventing things since she was in first grade, using toothpicks and marshmallows. She will now go on to compete with the Finsen Headphones in the prestigious 2022 3M Young Scientist Challenge.

OVERHEARD



"The older I get, the more I try to embrace my inner kid."

Actor Sylvester Stallone, age 76, reflecting on his life. Stallone's career in Hollywood spans decades, with his best known role being the fictional boxing champion Rocky Balboa in the *Rocky* films.



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

The howler monkey is the world's noisiest land animal. Its howl can be heard up to 3 miles away.



The painted wood turtle can communicate with its voice.

Animals have accents

Human beings sound different depending on where they come from, and so do animals. A study of sperm whales shows that their clicks vary depending on where they are from—Caribbean whales' clicks are different from that of Mediterranean whales. Similarly, wolves living in different regions have different types of howls.

A wolf



Many animals “talk” together

More than 50 animal species previously believed to be unable to use sounds to communicate do in fact “talk” to one another, researchers have found.

Gabriel Jorgewich-Cohen, a scientist at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, studied 53 species of amphibians, fish, and reptiles and discovered that they were all capable of communicating to their own species using sounds. Jorgewich-Cohen had wondered whether animals use their voices and wanted to find out for himself by studying several species—most of which live in water. He started with his own pet turtles. “I decided to

record them, just to check it out,” he said. Zoos around the world joined in the research, conducting their own experiments.

Before this study, researchers hadn't paid much attention to the noises made by many sea creatures—probably because they are underwater and difficult for humans to hear. Scientists thought that if the animals did make noises, they were defending themselves or it was just an accident and didn't mean anything. After all, the animals would go for days without making sounds.

The animals studied made many types of noises, including chirps and clicks, and used

different tones. When sounds are this complex, experts say, they carry meaning. The team also used underwater cameras to watch and connect certain sounds to activities, such as arguing or looking for somewhere to lay an egg.

The researchers evaluated other studies as well, adding in another 1,800 species. From this work, Jorgewich-Cohen concluded that the ability to communicate by making noises must have evolved about 400 million years ago and that every animal that can do it has a common ancestor (an animal in the past from which a modern animal developed). The ability to communicate might be even older than that, however. There are some types of fish, for example, which make noises that evolved from even more ancient ancestors.



Tuatara can “talk” to others.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota

With more than 210 miles of cave passages, the Jewel Cave National Monument in South Dakota is the third longest cave in the world. The cave holds many mysteries, given that a large part of it remains unexplored. Until Herb Conn and Jan Conn mapped more than 60 miles of passages underground in the 1960s and 1970s, the cave was believed to be only two miles long. Visitors today can explore Jewel Cave with ranger-guided tours. Its most famous resident is the bat. There are nine species living in the cave, including the Townsend's big-eared bat.



A Townsend's big-eared bat



FUN FACT
Despite the saying “sweat like a pig,” pigs do not actually sweat. They regulate their body temperature through breathing.

Pigs show they can make up after a fight.

Pigs step in to resolve conflicts

Just like humans, pigs sometimes don’t get along with one another. However, the presence of other pigs may help reduce fighting, according to a new study.

Researchers from the University of Torino in Italy studied 104 pigs. They watched and recorded pig interactions for about five months, paying special attention to signs of fighting. Some of the aggressive behaviors among pigs included pushing, biting, and head knocking.

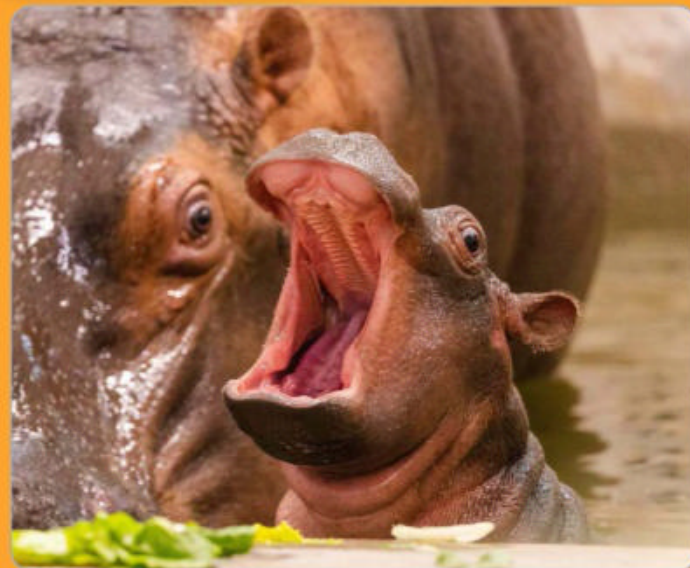
The scientists then observed the pigs’ behavior after each conflict. They found

that both the “agitator” (the pig who started the fight) and “victim” pigs demonstrated signs of forgiveness. They made nose-to-nose contact, sat near each other, or rested their heads together. If a third pig had watched the conflict, the victim pig appeared to have fewer signs of anxiety, like shaking. The presence of the bystander pig also decreased the intensity of aggressive behavior.

Researchers concluded that pigs recognize conflict among other pigs and can help calm the situation.

Animal of the Week

Hippopotamus



A baby hippopotamus was born at the Dallas Zoo at the end of October. The calf was born underwater, which is typical for hippos. The zoo said that the calf and its mother, Boipelo, shown together above, are bonding and doing well.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 36 years
- **HABITAT:** Rivers and lakes in Africa
- **SIZE:** Up to nearly 17 feet long
- **DIET:** Patches of short grass
- **FUN FACT:** Hippo calves can weigh more than 100 pounds at birth.



Good week / Bad week



Rhododendrons

On the Hengduan mountains in China, different species of rhododendrons have adapted to blossom at different times of the season. This has allowed more than 30 species of the flower to coexist without competing for pollinators.



Rhinos

Rhinoceros horns have been getting smaller, according to research based on an analysis of photos of rhino horns from 1886 to 2018. Poachers hunt rhinos with big horns, leaving those with smaller horns more likely to produce offspring.



“Do fish get thirsty?”

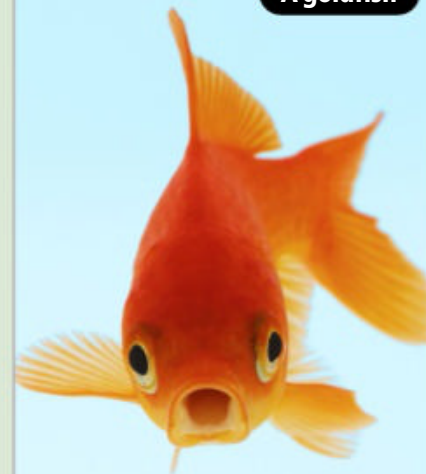
Isra, 11, New York

Chris Easlea

Biologist,
Adventure Aquarium

Kind of! Fish that live in salt water drink a lot of it because they need it for their health. However, they filter the excess salt from their bodies. Freshwater fish, like goldfish, don’t actively drink water. They absorb enough of it through their skin and can expel any excess water from their gills.

A goldfish



X sxx turtlx

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Adventure Aquarium in New Jersey at adventureaquarium.com.



Celebrating years of

Cookies, in all their varieties, are a sweet part of the holidays.

Whether they're enjoyed at Hanukkah festivities, shared during Kwanzaa, or left on a plate for Santa, cookies play a starring role every winter season. How did holiday cookie customs begin?

Special origins

Holiday cookies can be traced to festivals for the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere.

Thousands of years ago, people around the world celebrated this day with bonfires and parties—and cookies. As Christianity spread during the Middle Ages (500–1500 CE), Christmas and Winter Solstice traditions merged. Cookie decorating can be traced to at least the 1300s, when German bakers made cookies from wood molds with religious designs. In the 1600s, the Dutch made “little cakes” named *koekjes*, later adopted as the English word “cookie.” As trade routes opened worldwide, more people had access to spices like nutmeg and cinnamon. These ingredients were expensive, so they were saved for special holidays, when neighbors shared homemade cookies as gifts.

Fun with shapes

In the 1700s, holiday cookies came to the US with German Protestant settlers in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. They used a flat dough that

was easy to cut and shape, and made one of the earliest known versions of the sugar cookie. In

the late 1800s, cookie cutters made of tin were sold, and bakers started

experimenting with more shapes. By the 1940s, inexpensive plastic cookie cutters became widely available. People could buy cookie cutters in shapes like stars, trees, and reindeer to make their own holiday cookies at home.



Cinnamon sticks



From left: Hanukkah cookies, Kwanzaa benne wafers, and Christmas cookies

DID YOU KNOW?
Americans eat more than 2 billion cookies every year.

SWEET IDEA

National Cookie Exchange Day is recognized on December 22 to encourage the sharing of cookies.



Favorites in other nations

Soetkoekies (South Africa)

These buttery cookies are traditionally made in December. They are rolled very thin for extra crispiness.



Krumkake (Norway)

Krumkake translates into “curved cake.” A simple sweet dough is rolled and then baked with a special iron. While hot, it’s formed into a cone shape and then filled with whipped cream.



A duck-shaped cookie cutter from the 1800s



tasty tradition



FUN FACT
The first gingerbread men were said to be made for Queen Elizabeth I, who asked for cookies that looked like important guests.



Kahk cookies, made in spring for Eid

Cookie customs

The Christmas Eve practice of leaving out cookies for Santa became popular as a gesture of gratitude during the Great Depression, a period from 1929 to the late 1930s when many Americans were unemployed. At about the same time, Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe arrived in the US with their versions of holiday cookies—including rugelach, a flaky pastry filled with chocolate, cinnamon, or fruit and enjoyed on Hanukkah, the festival of lights. Sesame-flavored benne wafers are a traditional treat for Kwanzaa, a non-religious holiday celebrating African cultures and values. Kahk are small, round cookies that originated in Egypt. They are enjoyed in the spring during Eid al-Fitr, a Muslim festival that marks the end of the month-long Ramadan holiday. Kahk are typically made with ghee (clarified butter), honey, sesame seeds, and sometimes nuts.



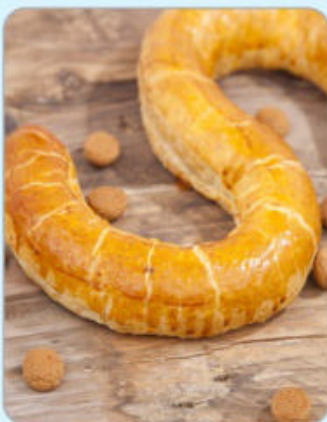
Italian cookies

Regional winners

Favorite holiday cookies in the US vary by region, according to a survey by YouGov, a company that creates polls. In the Northeast, jam-filled thumbprint cookies are the top choice, closely followed by Italian Christmas cookies. In the Midwest, monster cookies (peanut butter, oats, chocolate chips, and M&M's) are number one, with peanut butter balls in second. In the South, gingerbread and peanut butter cookies are tied for first place, while in the West, salted caramel cookies and butter cookies are the favorites. (To make your own holiday cookies, see the four festive recipes on pages 24 and 25.)

Letterbankets (Holland)

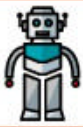
Flaky puff pastry is molded into alphabet letters and filled with an almond paste (marzipan). This cookie can be in the shape of any letter, but the letter S is the most common.



Pfeffernüsse (Germany)

These spiced cookies are appropriately named "pepper nut." They're made with nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves, then dusted with powdered sugar.





QUIET PLANT

Some plants, like the peace lily, have leaves that naturally absorb sound and can reduce noise pollution.



Houseplants that cut pollution

Scientists have known for many years that houseplants benefit people's well-being. Now researchers have found a way to make plants even better for human health. Using a method called genetic modification (GM), they raised plants that reduce indoor air pollution. GM means changing a plant or animal by altering its DNA (a natural chemical that carries the instructions for how living things grow), including adding DNA from another species.

Indoor air pollution is produced by cleaning products, cooking, and dust, among other things, and it can be bad for people's health. In 1989, research done by NASA (the US space agency) found that houseplants could clean the air in a home. Later studies, however, showed that plants actually made too small a difference to help much. Since then, scientists have been experimenting with the DNA of certain potted plants to try to create one that will reduce more air pollution.

In 2018, scientists from the University of Washington decided to adapt a houseplant called pothos, or devil's ivy, which is popular and

easy to care for. The team inserted new DNA based on a chemical found in a rabbit's liver. In the animal, the chemical breaks down harmful substances. The team found that the new DNA made the plant better at absorbing pollution.

More recently, a company called Neoplants added more DNA, from two types of bacteria (tiny living organisms). As the devil's ivy grew, the team studied it carefully. Tests suggested that it was up to 30 times better at sucking up pollution than the non-GM plants that NASA tested back in 1989. The company is also planning to add bacteria to the soil that comes with the plant, which could help break down even more polluting gases.

There is more work to be done, but the team at Neoplants plans to use this technology in other types of houseplants. If all goes well, the company hopes people in the US will be able to decorate their homes with pollution-busting plants by next year. Another company, Origen Air, sells a plant-based system that cleans the air in businesses and homes. It is currently available in Canada.



A pothos plant

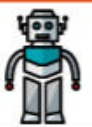
Plants that fight hunger



Soybeans

Plants use a process called photosynthesis to convert sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide into nutrients that help them grow. Most plants grow better with more natural light. However, scientists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign recently changed the DNA of soybean plants so that they would need less light than usual. Not only did the plants flourish, but they produced 25% more beans.

The team hopes this could help boost the global food supply. In 2021, the United Nations (a group of 193 nations working for peace and cooperation) found that nearly 10% of the world's population is facing food shortages. "This is the biggest health crisis on the planet," said Stephen Long, who led the research.



Study shows crows can think like people do

In a new study, crows demonstrated a complex ability called recursion, which means recognizing a pattern or pair inside a larger sequence. People do this when identifying the repeated chorus of a song or solving a math equation that includes numbers that are in parentheses.

In the past, experts thought using recursion was something only humans could do. But in 2020, a study of rhesus macaque monkeys found that, with extra training, the monkeys could learn to create recursive sequences too.

Knowing that crows are very smart, scientists in Germany wanted to see if the birds were also capable of recursive thinking. The team taught two crows to identify paired symbols on a screen,

such as [], {}, and < >. The birds were trained to create sequences by pecking at the symbols in order. They received a treat each time they created a recursive sequence like this: { [] }.

After training, the team tested the birds with new combinations of symbols. The crows correctly formed recursive sequences about 40% of the time. Adult humans succeeded 60% to 90% of the time, children 43%, and monkeys about 26% of the time.

It's possible that the birds learned to do the task without completely understanding the concept. Even so, lead author Diana A. Liao said the results suggest that this seemingly rare ability "may turn out not to be that human-specific after all."



SMART BIRDS
Research has found that crows can recognize people they dislike and hold a grudge against them for years.



The tunnel (far left) and the temple

Ancient tunnel found under temple

Scientists recently discovered a tunnel 65 feet beneath an ancient temple in Egypt. The tunnel, which is 6.6 feet high and runs 4,281 feet in length, was found in what was once the city of Taposiris Magna.

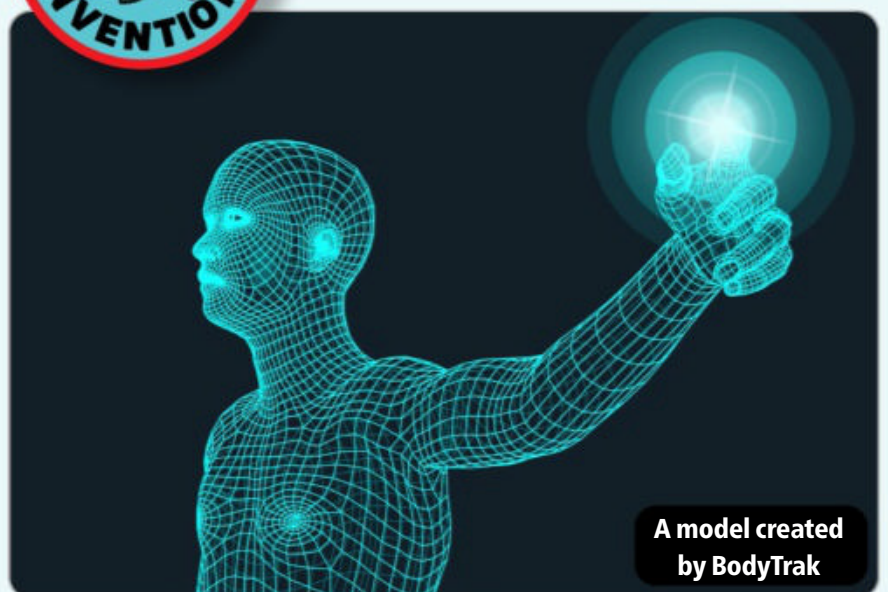
Inside the tunnel, the team found two heads made of alabaster, a type of mineral. One of them appears to represent a king, while the other depicts an unknown high-ranking official. Coins and statues of Egyptian gods were also found. Parts of the

tunnel were underwater, likely because earthquakes have caused the temple to sink over the years.

Dr. Kathleen Martinez, the archaeologist (scientist who studies objects left by people long ago) who led the team, said the tunnel is very similar to a well-known aqueduct (passage built to convey water) in Greece. She called the Egyptian tunnel "an important finding." Martinez said she and her colleagues will continue exploring it.



Wrist device to track movement



A new wearable wrist device can track the movement and posture of a person's entire body with one tiny camera. Most motion-capture systems need to see the whole body to track it. But BodyTrak captures images of small sections of the body and uses artificial intelligence (AI,

when a machine imitates human learning) to figure out the position of the rest of it. BodyTrak then builds a virtual 3D model of the full body.

BodyTrak could help athletes improve their performance or alert caregivers if an elderly patient has fallen or been hurt.



Photos of the week



Special bond

Kristen Barron caught these big cats mid-cuddle.



Twice the fun

Two finned friends smile for the camera in this photo by Rick Morgan.



LYNDA RODIG; RICK MORGAN; FRANCISCO JOSE SCHOPFER; KRISTEN BARRON; BOB GREENBERG; JAKE LIMPE

Photos of the week



Happy dance

Bob Greenberg took this joyful photo.



Lunch break

A bat drops in for a snack in this shot by Lynda Rodig.



Open wide

Jake Limpf zoomed in on this supersize hippo underwater.



Who, me?

An owl winks in this image by Francisco Jose Schopfer.



Sports

FUN FACT
Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal is the first man to score in five World Cups.



The US vs the Netherlands

A World Cup milestone



In a match on December 1, Stephanie Frappart, Neuza Back, and Karen Diaz became the first female trio to referee a men's World Cup game. Head official Frappart was also the first female to officiate at a men's World Cup qualifier and in a Champions League match.

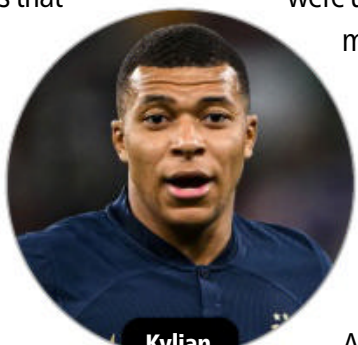
World Cup knockout stage begins

The 2022 FIFA World Cup, taking place in Qatar, is getting more competitive and exciting. The tournament's knockout stage kicked off on December 3 with the 16 soccer teams that advanced from the group stage. Teams that lose in the round of 16 and quarterfinals are eliminated.

In the first match of the round of 16, the US faced the Netherlands. In the past, the teams had met in five exhibition games, and the Netherlands won four of them. Despite a great effort, the US team lost the World Cup match, 3–1.

The US had gotten off to an excellent start in the match. Forward Christian Pulisic had an opportunity to score within the first five minutes,

but his shot was saved by Netherlands goalkeeper Andries Noppert. The Netherlands opened scoring on a goal by forward Memphis Depay, and they were up 2–0 by halftime. With less than 15 minutes left in the second half, US forward Haji Wright scored and put the team back in the match. However, the Netherlands struck back with a late goal and put a US victory out of reach.



Kylian Mbappé

The same day, Argentina beat Australia, 2–1. Argentina's star Lionel Messi scored in the match, which was his 1,000th game. On December 4, defending champion France beat Poland, 3–1. French forward Kylian Mbappé scored twice. Also that day, England beat Senegal, 3–0.

On December 5, Croatia beat Japan in a match that featured two overtimes and was decided by the first penalty shootout of the tournament. Croatia's goalkeeper, Dominik Livakovic, saved three out of the four penalties he faced. In the second match of the day, Brazil beat South Korea, 4–1. Brazil's second goal was scored by its star Neymar (who goes by one name), who had missed his team's two previous games due to an ankle injury.

Morocco reached the quarterfinals for the first time ever by beating Spain in a penalty shootout on December 6. Later that day, Portugal beat Switzerland, 6–1. Portugal's star, Cristiano Ronaldo, did not start the match. He was replaced by forward Gonçalo Ramos, who ended up scoring the team's first goal and two more.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Conference championship games were played on December 3. Among the winners were two undefeated teams, the University of Georgia and the University of Michigan, along with Ohio State University and Texas Christian University. Those four teams have been chosen to compete in the College Football Playoff, which leads to the national championship game. Georgia won the title last season.



Katie Ledecky

COLLEGE SOCCER

In the women's Division 1 national championship match on December 5, the top-ranked University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) beat the number two team, the University of North Carolina, 3–2, in double overtime.

SWIMMING

At the US Open on December 1, Katie Ledecky of the US held off Canadian rising star Summer Macintosh, age 16, to win the 400-meter freestyle by eight-hundredths of a second.



Emily Sweeney

DID YOU KNOW?
In a luge race, athletes can reach speeds of more than 90 miles per hour.

US makes history in new luge season

On December 3, World Cup luge races began in Igls, Austria. A luge is a small, lightweight sled raced on a track by one or two people (singles or doubles). This year, the US made history in the sport by becoming the first country to send three women's doubles teams to a World Cup event.

One reason the US has so many teams is because earlier this year, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the women's doubles luge will be an Olympic event for the first time in 2026. Before, the double luge event was open to men and women but only men competed in it at the Olympics. Because of the change, two of the top American female singles sliders, Summer Britcher and Emily Sweeney, decided to compete together. They spent \$13,000 of their own money on a doubles sled.

The women's doubles race used to begin at a point lower than the men's starting line, but at the World Cup they began at the same spot, which was seen as another positive change in the sport. In their first World Cup event, Britcher and Sweeney finished in fifth place. The two other US women's teams finished in seventh and eighth. Sweeney had better luck in singles, where she won a silver medal. Athletes from Austria won five of the nine medals in men's and women's races.

Britcher has said she is happy about the progress being made in her sport. "Seeing the push for gender equality from the IOC and the USOPC [The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee], and having women's doubles included in the 2026 Olympics, it's just something that I want to be a part of," she said.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Slava Glazounov**

Team: **First State Gymnastics**

"What makes Slava such a great coach is that he knows gymnastics and was a gymnast himself, so he understands the sport really well. But he also motivates us and is really funny! He is always making us laugh, which is really important because gymnastics is a stressful sport, and we need a coach who can coach us and also be there for us when we need support. Coach Slava is the best!" Lucy, 10, Delaware



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Marina Arrese

AGE: 22 SPORT: FENCING

TEAM: NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Starting out My grandmother fenced when she was young and showed me a picture when I was little. Shortly after that, I found a fencing club in my neighborhood and signed up. I was 9 years old! I grew up in Spain and won a regional competition in Madrid at the age of 11. It motivated me to set more ambitious goals and keep working to achieve them.

Special skills

Fencing is all about mind-body connection. Often the victory is not from physical or technical superiority but from mental strength and strategy. My favorite thing is the strategic component. People call it physical chess.

Workout plan We practice every morning, Monday to Friday—weekends are saved for competitions. I also run to work on my conditioning. In my free time or in the off-season, I enjoy kickboxing and horse riding.

Happy habits For my mental health, I keep a very organized routine. Small details are very important, like making my bed or keeping my room clean. I also make sure I get free time to hang out with friends, FaceTime with my family, or go out.

Top soundtrack I always listen to the same reggaeton playlist while warming up.

Staying calm I perform at my best when I let the pressure and worries go, so I treat meets as opportunities to have fun. The pressure to win shouldn't stop you from enjoying your sport.

Her wisdom Talent is a thing, but effort is what will get you to win. Hard work is the only way.





POPULAR PUPPET

The original story of Pinocchio has been translated into more than 260 languages.

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio

Pinocchio comes to screens

Famous director Guillermo del Toro has reimaged the Italian folktale using stop-motion animation.

Award-winning director Guillermo del Toro, who has made many imaginative films about monsters and produced the *Trollhunters* franchise, has taken on a classic children's story. *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio* is a new animated film that follows a boy on a journey as he learns about life, love, and the desire to be understood. It is in select theaters and on Netflix.

The film is based on C. Collodi's 1883 Italian children's novel, *The Adventures of Pinocchio: The Story of a Puppet*. Del Toro's story is set in Italy,

between World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945). It follows Gepetto, a woodworker who carves himself a boy to cope with his son's death. A magical spirit gives the boy life and names him Pinocchio. He is curious and energetic, and his nose grows when he lies.



Guillermo del Toro

Almost all of *Pinocchio* was made with stop-motion animation, a process that involves moving puppets in tiny ways and taking photos after every move. When the frames (images) are put together, they appear animated. *Pinocchio's* animation supervisor, Brian Leif

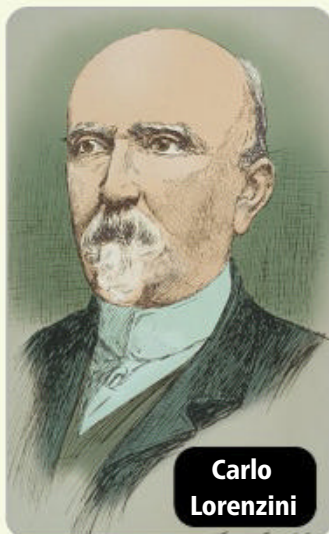
Hansen, told *The Week Junior* that a stop-motion production requires cameras, crews, and sets with light, just as a live-action film does. "The puppets are sort of like the actors, but just small," he said. About 60 animators worked on the film, which has more than 161,000 frames in all.

In the story, Pinocchio doesn't know how the world works so he makes his own rules. People often misunderstand him or find him strange, but Hansen is looking forward to people seeing how sweet and funny he is. He also thinks audiences will connect with the character more than in the past. These days, he said, "There's more room for people who have a different way of perceiving life."

3 facts about Pinocchio

The writer

Pinocchio author C. Collodi was really a journalist named Carlo Lorenzini who began his career writing political humor. He first published *Pinocchio* in a magazine.



Carlo Lorenzini

The setting

The medieval town of Collodi, in the Tuscany region of central Italy, is said to have inspired the original setting of *Pinocchio*. It is the town where Lorenzini grew up, and it also gave him his pen name (a fake name taken on by a writer).



Collodi, Italy

On screen

The first film adaptation of *Pinocchio* was Walt Disney's 1940 animated version. It won two Oscars (top film awards), including one for the original song "When You Wish Upon a Star."





WOW!

It took nearly 10 years to remove more than 5,000 items from King Tut's tomb.



Beyond King Tut

A look into King Tut's world

The immersive experience *Beyond King Tut* is taking visitors into the world of the Egyptian pharaoh (which means "king" and is pronounced "farrow") Tutankhamun. The installation, created in partnership with the National Geographic Society, is currently open in Los Angeles and New York and at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC. It will be in more cities in 2023.

King Tut lived between about 1343 and 1323 BCE and became pharaoh at age 9. He ruled for 10 years before dying at age 19. Little was known about him before his tomb was found 100 years ago. Kathryn Keane, vice president of public programming and the National Geographic

Museum director, told *The Week Junior* that *Beyond King Tut* "is like a time machine." It covers the discovery of King Tut's tomb and also goes back to his life in Egypt 3,000 years ago.

The experience has nine rooms and includes giant video projections, animations, and sound. Many areas in the exhibition focus on ancient tales of pharaohs' journeys to the afterlife. Keane said the animations and 360-degree projections make it "unlike anything we have seen in a museum before." She added that the goal of the experience was to try to tell King Tut's story "in a new way, separate fact and fiction, and immerse our audiences in this fascinating true story."



MOVIE NIGHT

If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

Disenchanted (2022)

Disney+

This animated and live-action hybrid musical is a sequel to the hit film *Enchanted*. In the first movie, Giselle is banished from the kingdom of Andalasia and ends up in New York City, where she finds love with Robert, a lawyer with a young daughter named Morgan. It's now 15 years later, and the married couple have moved to suburban Monroeville. It is not the fairy-tale life Giselle hoped for. The town's unofficial queen has it out for her, and Morgan isn't happy in their new home. Giselle makes a wish and turns the town into a magical kingdom, but her plan backfires. She starts turning into an evil stepmother, and Andalasia begins spilling into Monroeville. Can she reverse the spell before it's too late?

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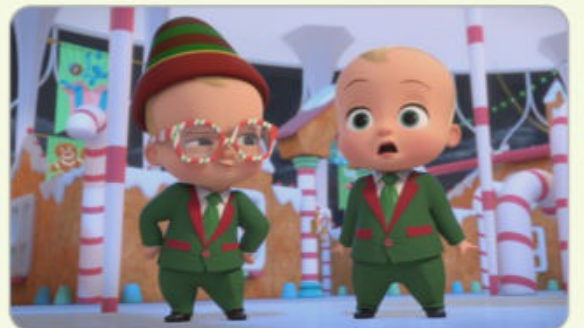
THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration

(ABC) December 15 at 8 pm ET

This musical event honors the 30th anniversary of Disney's animated *Beauty and the Beast* with a new retelling of the story. Its all-star cast includes award-winning performers H.E.R. as Belle and Josh Groban as the Beast.



The Boss Baby: Christmas Bonus (Netflix)

The funny talking tot is back in a new holiday special that finds him accidentally swapping places with an elf and heading to the North Pole. He tries to run Santa's workshop like a corporation but soon finds that his business spirit conflicts with the Christmas spirit.



Dr. Seuss Baking Challenge (Amazon Prime Video) (Amazon Freevee)

Classically trained pastry chefs and self-taught cake artists are among the competitors in this new series that challenges bakers to whip up creations based on Dr. Seuss characters and stories. Teams must impress the judges if they hope to win the \$50,000 grand prize.



WOW!
The world record
for the longest individual
dance marathon is
126 hours.



Just Dance 2023

Dance to hit songs in new game

Just Dance 2023 is a party game for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 5, and Xbox Series X|S. It was recently released for download only.

The Just Dance series launched in 2009. In the game, players follow choreography set to pop and rock music. When you dance, you hold a controller or a smartphone with the new Just Dance 2023 controller app. The moves get faster and more complicated as you go. You earn points by finishing routines.

The game launched with 40 songs, and more will become available. Some of the big hits include "Dynamite" by BTS, "We Don't Talk About Bruno" by the cast of *Encanto*, and "As It Was" by Harry Styles. People who subscribe to Just Dance+ get access to more than 150 songs from past editions of the game.



The gameplay has gotten some big upgrades since last year's release. Players on screen now have complete bodies instead of just avatar heads. The change allows you to watch your character dance, which should make it easier to keep up with the beat. The characters are very customizable, and over time you can earn points that allow you to unlock new badges, backgrounds, and other features. Just Dance 2023 also has immersive 3D worlds. They make the game feel more real, even though the images are still cartoony.

One of the other fun new features this year lets players connect with up to five friends or family members online. You can also try the game's new story mode, which includes dance heroes and villains and gives your movements more meaning.



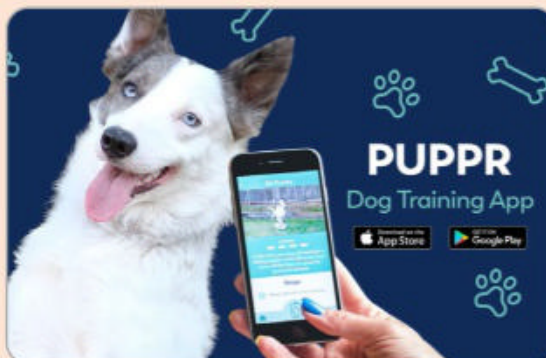
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

MAYAN CRYSTAL

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music
This fictional series is set in Belize, where an 11-year-old girl with an ancient Mayan crystal has accidentally awakened an evil spirit. Each episode tells a story from her epic journey to stop the spirit before it conquers the world. She'll have help from her sister and a 20-foot talking boa constrictor.



APP OF THE WEEK



PUPPR

Apple App Store, Google Play
You and your family can use this app to teach your dog everything from basic skills to tricks such as handstands. It features more than 100 step-by-step instruction videos by certified trainers, ways to track your dog's progress, scheduled reminders, photo challenges, and more.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

HOW HARD CANDY IS MADE

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-CandyShop

Go behind the scenes at a Florida candy shop to learn how sweet treats are created. You'll see how the shop's team uses classic techniques, vintage equipment, and a cooling table to turn mixtures of hot melted sugar into tasty holiday favorites, such as candy canes and sugar plum drops.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Clarice Bean: Think Like an Elf

By Lauren Child

(Candlewick Press)

Clarice's parents want Christmas to be simple this year. They're tired of the preparation they have to do. On the other hand, Clarice wishes for a big holiday. She is determined to spread as much cheer as possible. She delivers homemade cards to her neighbors and makes fudge to give as gifts. Not everything goes as planned. The dog eats the family's turkey, special ornaments break, and her grandma receives the wrong gift. Despite these setbacks, Clarice remains positive. A few surprises could make the day the family's best Christmas ever. Colorful illustrations bring the story to life, and the book may make you think about what's really important during the holiday season.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Lauren Child

We spoke to the author of *Think Like an Elf*.



Do you have a favorite holiday memory?

Yes, once my sister and I spent Christmas abroad with people I didn't know that well. We felt so included by their kindness and their generosity of spirit.

Do any of your characters share traits with you?

Probably Clarice, but there is a bit of me in all of Clarice's family members. My characters are often based on people I know, but rarely just one person.

How did you first get interested in drawing?

My dad taught me to draw, paint, and think as an artist. He was a huge influence.

Gingerbread or fruitcake?

Definitely gingerbread.

How did the Clarice Bean series come to be?

I wanted to write a film, and a friend suggested I first write a picture book. I ended up creating a middle-grade story that became a book series.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Clarice Bean: Think Like an Elf*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with Elf in the subject line. Enter by midnight on December 30. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

READER RECOMMENDS

What About Will By Ellen Hopkins

"This book is about a boy named Trace Reynolds and his relationship with his brother, Will. Will had a tragic accident on the football field that changed his life and his family's life. The story is about hard times, trust issues, and the power of family. Although this book might seem sad, it's interesting to read. It is a novel in verse and a real page-turner. I highly recommend it for ages 10 to 13." Lila, 11, Maryland

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



4 books that take place during winter

When the weather turns chilly, stay cozy inside with one these stories.



Shadows of Winterspell

By Amy Wilson

(Macmillan Children's Books)

In this fantasy novel, Stella is a fairy who lives at the edge of the Winterspell forest with her grandmother's ghost. When she makes friends, she learns that not everything is what it seems. Family secrets and her bravery will keep you turning the pages. *Ages 9 and up*



Middle School: Winter Blunderland

By James Patterson and Brian Sitts, illustrated by Jomike Tejido (Jimmy Patterson)

Rafe goes to Alaska to study polar bears. He's excited until he arrives at the freezing region. But when a polar bear that his teacher is tracking goes missing, Rafe must help find the bear before poachers do. This is the 15th book in the popular Middle School series. *Ages 8–12*



Peril at Owl Park

By Marthe Jocelyn

(Tundra Books)

The second book of the Aggie Morton, Mystery Queen series takes place during the holidays. Aggie is a character loosely based on the famous author Agatha Christie. When a crime is committed at her sister's home, Aggie must use her detective skills to figure it out. A secret passageway adds to the intrigue. *Ages 10 and up*



Winterfrost

By Michelle Houts

(Candlewick Press)

Bettina's family forgets to do an important Danish tradition on Christmas Eve. They don't leave out rice pudding for the *nisse*, the gnome-like creatures who live on their farm. But Bettina isn't even sure the *nisse* are real. She changes her mind once her sister goes missing and the *nisse* help with the search. *Ages 8–12*



How to...

Bake delicious holiday cookies

With these fun recipes, you can make homemade treats for your family and friends.

SNOWMOJI TREATS

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cookie dough
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup white frosting
- ¼ cup chocolate frosting
- 12 orange Tic Tac mints
- Brown chocolate gems
- Fruit slice candies
- Sour candy tape

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350° F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, knead together the cookie dough and flour.
2. Roll the dough out to ¼-inch thickness, then cut into circles using a 2½-inch round cookie cutter. Gather and reroll the dough as needed, and arrange the cookies 2 inches apart on your pans. Place the whole cookie sheets in the freezer for 10 minutes, then remove and bake until

cookies are golden around the edges, about 8 minutes. Let cool on the pan for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack.

3. Once cooled, cover the top of each cookie with white frosting. Add an emoji face as desired, using chocolate gems or frosting for eyes, chocolate frosting for a mouth, an orange Tic Tac nose, and a hat or scarf made of sour candy tape or a fruit slice trimmed into the desired shape. Makes 1 dozen cookies.



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the oven for any of these recipes.



CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT THUMBPRINTS

Ingredients

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cocoa powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup bittersweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 2 to 3 tablespoons crushed candy canes

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350° F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt. In a stand mixer fit with a paddle attachment, beat the butter and ¾ cup sugar on medium until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the egg and vanilla and beat to incorporate. Reduce the mixer's speed to low and blend in the flour mixture one third at a time.
2. Place the remaining ¼ cup sugar in a separate bowl. Scoop out a tablespoon of dough and roll it into a ball, then toss it in the sugar to coat. Repeat with the remaining dough, placing the balls 2 inches apart on the prepared sheets.
3. Bake the cookies for 6 minutes. Remove from the oven and, with an adult's help, use a teaspoon to make a divot in each cookie. Bake for 6 minutes more. Let the cookies cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to a rack.
4. In a bowl, combine the chocolate chips and heavy cream. Microwave on high for 45 seconds, then carefully stir the mixture. Spoon chocolate into the center of each cookie, then sprinkle each with candy cane pieces. Let the chocolate stiffen before serving. Makes about 2½ dozen cookies.

SWEET CELEBRATION
National Candy Cane Day takes place every year on December 26.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the UK, cookies are called biscuits, which comes from the Latin *biscotus*, meaning "twice-cooked."



CHEWY GINGER MOLASSES COOKIES

Ingredients

- 2¼ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ⅛ teaspoon cloves
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ cup butter
- ⅔ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ⅔ cup molasses
- 1½ cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- Sparkling sugar

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350° F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt. In a stand mixer fit with a paddle attachment, beat the butter and sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Blend in the molasses. Reduce the mixer's speed to low and blend in the flour mixture one third at a time.
2. Let the dough rest for 5 minutes. Scoop the dough into tablespoon-size portions and arrange them on the prepared baking sheets, about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake the cookies, turning them once halfway through, for about 12 minutes. Let them cool on the pans for 5 minutes, then transfer them to a rack.
4. In a small bowl, stir together the confectioners' sugar and milk. Spoon the icing on the cookies and sprinkle on sparkling sugar. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.



FUN FACT

The average American eats about 35,000 cookies in their lifetime.

DRIZZLED GRAHAM CRACKER BITES

Ingredients

- 1¼ cups bittersweet chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 6 graham crackers, broken into quarters
- ½ cup blue candy melts
- ½ cup white candy melts
- Gold sprinkles

Instructions

1. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper. Melt the chocolate according to the package directions, then stir in the vegetable oil. Transfer the chocolate to a bowl.
2. Working with one cracker at a time, use a fork to submerge, then lift the cracker from the chocolate. Gently tap the fork on the side of the bowl to get rid of the excess chocolate, then slide the cracker onto the prepared sheet. Repeat with the remaining crackers.
3. Let the chocolate set until hardened.
4. Melt the blue and white candy melts in the microwave, according to the package directions. Place each color in its own piping bag fit with a small writing tip. Drizzle the melted candy onto a cracker, one color at a time, then scatter it with gold sprinkles. Repeat with the remaining crackers. Let the candy set. Makes 2 dozen bites.



Puzzles



Keyword crossword

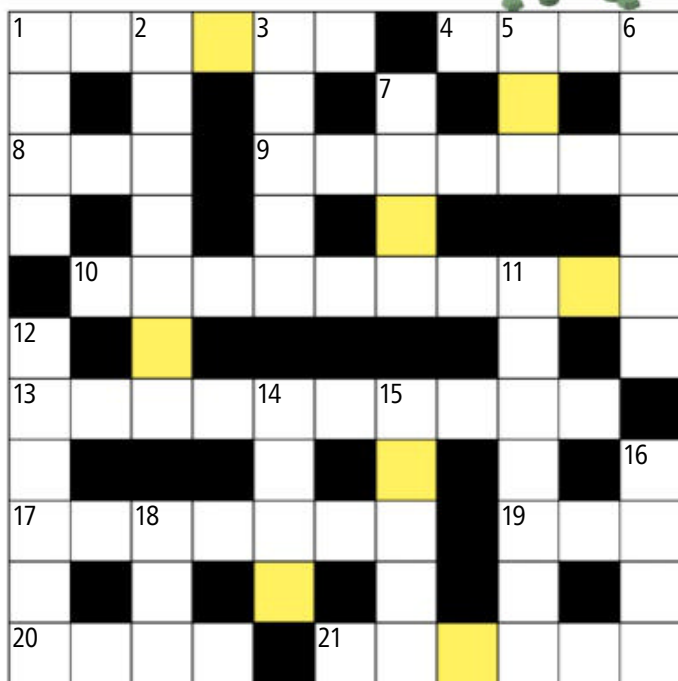
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- 1 When O's represent hugs, X's represent these
- 4 "Cut it out!"
- 8 Drink served hot in a special cup
- 9 Like dinosaurs and dodos
- 10 Shakespeare's occupation
- 13 Where a house's basement is located
- 17 Sound of an approaching storm
- 19 Annoying insect
- 20 It's used for a ship's rigging
- 21 Cleans a dusty floor

DOWN

- 1 Item that's said to be part of Ben Franklin's scientific experiment
- 2 We do this after we chew our food
- 3 Opponent in war
- 5 The lowest number with two digits
- 6 The starting point of every french fry
- 7 Five-pointed shape
- 11 A mammal of this kind is born taller than most humans
- 12 Person who fixes a writer's work
- 14 Bath bubbles
- 15 Pointer on a sign
- 16 They can be winked and blinked
- 18 Person who calls "Safe!" or "Out!"



Keyword question: In which kind of fish does the father carry the mother's eggs in a pouch until they hatch?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of common street signs, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded O. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

-
 Q X F - L F L M R X P J

-
 P X B - Q B N P

 C X P X Q J P Q J N



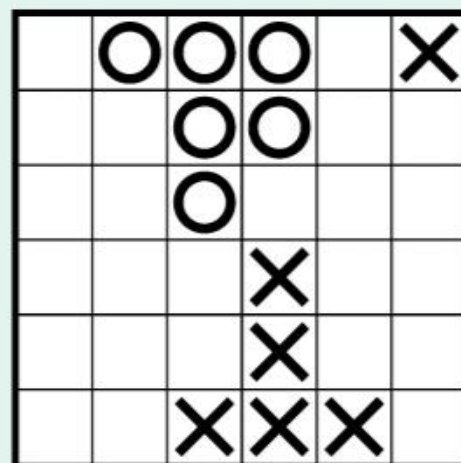
THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

CHILL ON FIRE THREE WIND
EARTH ALARM PEACE FACTOR

Hit or miss

Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's in a row across, down, or diagonally. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of pigs appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Carmen Croxall and her home sweet home

Almost good enough to eat

Carmen Croxall loves the Christmas season so much that she spent weeks transforming the front of her home into a giant gingerbread house. The house is covered in treats, including cookie windowsills, a candy cane door, and lollipop trees—but none of it can be eaten. Croxall, who lives in the UK, decorated her delicious-looking house using mostly recycled materials such as old milk cartons. "I'm really happy with how it looks—but now that it's done, I'm already thinking about what I can do next," she said.

A friendly tiebreaker

Rogers City, Michigan, didn't get tied up when a city council election ended in a tie. To break it, candidates Timeen Adair and Brittany VanderWall, both of whom had received 616 votes, each drew a folded piece of paper from a bowl. When the pair discovered that Adair's said "elected," while VanderWall's said "not elected," they agreed that Adair would take the council seat. Joking with reporters, Adair said, "The people have spoken, and they said, 'Eh, either one.'"



Brittany VanderWall (left) and Timeen Adair



He's on a hot streak.

Achieving record heat

"Gregory Foster is on fire," said Guinness World Records, after Foster ate 10 Carolina Reaper chilies in just over 33 seconds. The scorching peppers have a fearsome reputation, but the owner of a hot sauce company was undaunted as he competed with a fellow chili-chomping champion for the title of fastest Reaper eater. Foster said a bite of a Carolina Reaper "is just like liquid lava."

Real or fake?



All she wanted for Christmas was a title. Did she get it?

Christmas queen crowned

Nearly three decades after the release of the holiday classic song "All I Want for Christmas Is You," it is now official: Pop star Mariah Carey was declared the "Queen of Christmas" by the US Patent and Trademark Office, a government agency that can grant exclusive rights to a name or phrase. "It was the easiest decision I had to make this week," an agency official said. "Long may she reign." Is this story real, or do you think yule have second thoughts?*



They're pretty in pink.

Swiss sheep sport a stylish new look

A flock of sheep are showing off their new pink hairdos. Swiss Valais sheep usually have white heads and black faces. But these sheep, from a farm near Barnsley, England, have mops of pink woolly hair. Farmer Richard Nicholson noticed his flock's changing fleeces and realized that all the sheep had been eating from the same feeder, which had a fresh coat of paint that rubbed off on them. The new look is likely to grow out or wash off in the rain. But for now, the sheep don't seem to mind.

*Fake! Carey's application was denied after at least two other musicians said they had been called by the same title. After the decision was made final, one artist wrote on social media, "Congrats to all the other Queen of Christmases around the world!"



Your turn

Editor's note

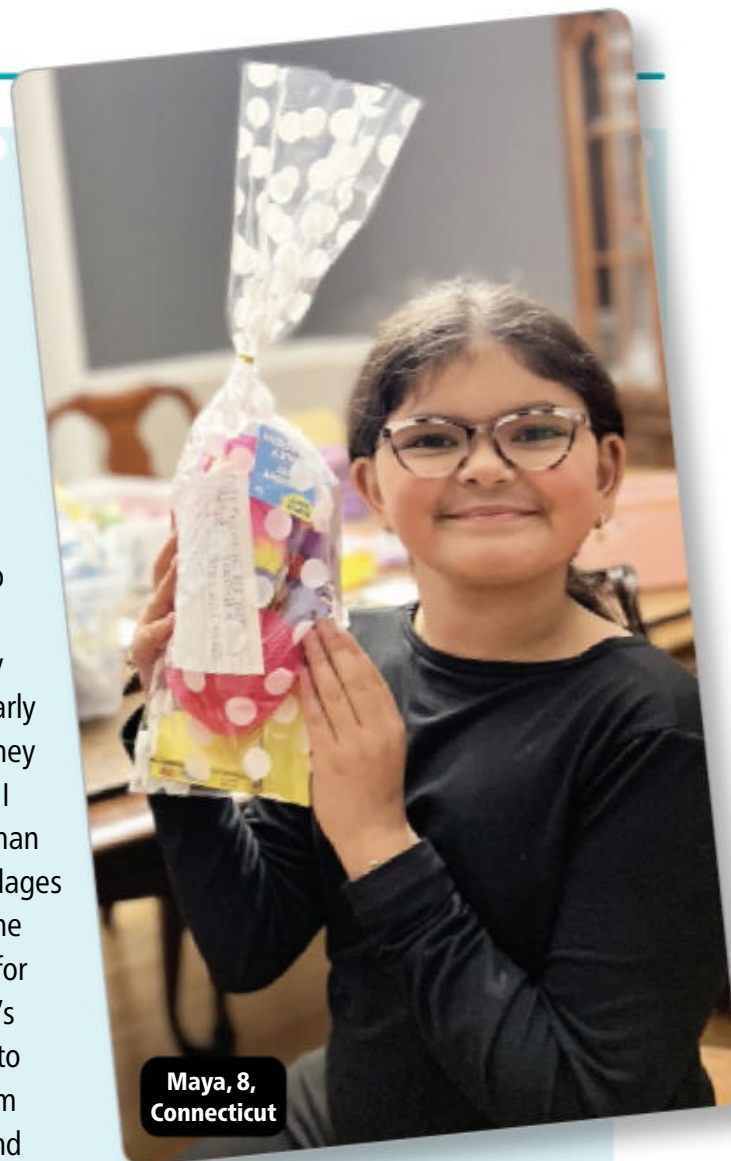
This week I was fascinated by our story about the additions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list (p3). This list—overseen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)—contains objects, events, and practices that carry great significance in different cultures. And what an incredibly varied list it is! This year's newcomers include baguettes in France, beekeeping in Slovenia, and bear festivals in the Pyrenees Mountains. One half of my family is from Hungary, so I was also pleased to see the inclusion of Hungarian string bands. (You can see the full list of additions from this year and previous years at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-UNESCO.) What story fascinated you most in this issue? Write to me anytime at hello@theweekjunior.com. And if you try any of our holiday cookie recipes on pages 24–25, send us a photo and tell us how they turned out!



Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

Helping children in Ukraine

“I saw Ukrainian children on the news who looked scared about the war in their country, and I wanted to do my part to help. I used my leftover Christmas money to put together nearly 100 toy packages that I called happy bags. They had squishies, crayons, and fidget toys. Then I started a GoFundMe page and raised more than \$1,100 to buy medical supplies, such as bandages and casts. I also made slime in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, blue and yellow, which I sold for two days in front of the EverWonder Children's Museum. I raised more than \$350 to donate to a church in Poland that cares for refugees from Ukraine. Finally, I used my birthday money and bought school supplies for 19 kids who were in an orphanage in Ukraine and had to flee to Germany. I am happy that I was able to help kids who need help.”



Maya, 8,
Connecticut

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.



Celebrating our democracy

A founding principle of the United States is that it's a democracy—meaning that citizens hold the power to elect the people who govern them. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about America's democratic process. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.

First name: Yenyi Age: 10 State: Florida

What do you like most about democracy and why?
I like democracy because it is what helps us maintain our freedom that people from all places have fought to keep so US citizens could vote for what leaders we want.

If you could describe democracy in three words, which words would you choose?
Freedom, speech, rights

What is your hope for democracy in the US?
I hope that democracy will last forever in this nation and everywhere.

Draw a picture of what democracy looks like to you.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What has four wheels and flies?
A garbage truck



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



One Simple Wish

This organization's mission is to make children living in foster care feel loved and cared for. It collects wishes from children and raises funds to help make the wishes come true, whether they're for a new pair of shoes, a bicycle, or a dollhouse. Working with 700 social service agencies across the US, the group fulfilled more than 14,000 wishes from 2020 to 2021. Find out more at onesimplewish.org. [onesimplewish](https://onesimplewish.org)

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



"I made my family an early Thanksgiving treat: caramel apple cider! My brother, Calen, approved!" **Chloe, 12, and Calen, 9, Virginia**

"I like looking at the Photos of the Week. I like how detailed they are." **Daniel, 11, Alabama**



"I've had *The Week Junior* for a year now and I love it. I also do gymnastics, and when I see a story about gymnastics in your magazine, I love to read it." **Lucy, 10, Delaware**

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjunior on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7-12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What will you do to get into the holiday spirit this year?

"Be kind!"

"Make gifts and drink hot chocolate."

"Put up a menorah for Hanukkah."

"Decorate the Christmas tree with my family."

"Put lights up on our house!"

In the big debate, we asked: Is cold weather better than hot weather?

"Yes. When you're cold, you put on a jacket. When you're hot, there isn't anything you can do to fix that."

"No, where I live it's about the same."

"I like both."

"Cold. I love snuggling up, watching movies around the fire."

Now tell us: What song did you most enjoy listening to this year?

Teacher OF THE WEEK



Teacher's Name: **Ms. Wujek**

School: **Riddle Elementary School**

"Ms. Wujek is the nicest and kindest person in the world. Even when the class is noisy, she tells everyone politely but sternly to be quiet. She always keeps us interested in learning and sometimes does funny things in the middle of the class to keep us engaged. She is the best teacher in the world."

Siya, 8, Texas

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



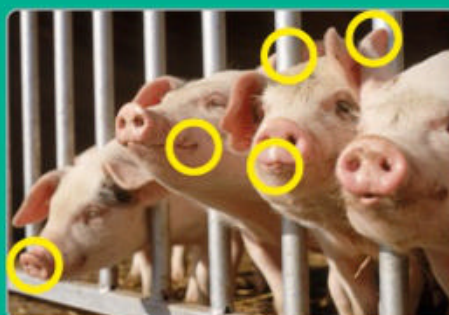
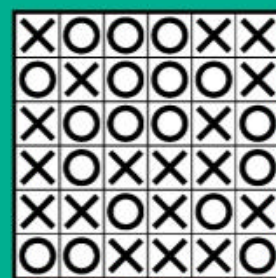
Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Keyword answer: seahorse

Code cracker
tow-away zone
no U-turn
do not enter

Three for all
three alarm fire
wind chill factor
peace on Earth



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Carolina Reaper 2 b) Devil's ivy 3 False. It is set in Italy. 4 a) Bad Bunny
5 True 6 a) John F. Kennedy 7 False. She wants a big holiday. 8 9
9 a) France 10 Crows 11 b) Finsen headphones 12 True 13 Baguette
14 b) The Netherlands 15 c) Little cakes

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Gregory Foster set a record by eating 10 of what kind of scorching hot chili peppers?



2 Which plant have scientists genetically modified to help reduce indoor air pollution?

a) Croton b) Devil's ivy c) Spider plant

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? The new animated movie *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio* is set in Spain.

True ☐ False ☐

4 Who was the most streamed artist in the world on Spotify in 2022?

a) Bad Bunny b) Harry Styles c) Taylor Swift

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 True or false? Hippopotamus calves are born underwater.

True ☐ False ☐

6 The Earthshot Prize was inspired by which US President's Moonshot challenge?

a) John F. Kennedy b) Richard Nixon

c) Ronald Reagan

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? In the book *Clarice Bean: Think Like an Elf*, Clarice wants a small Christmas celebration.

True ☐ False ☐

8 How old was Tutankhamun when he became king?



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



9 President Joe Biden hosted the president of which country at his first state dinner since taking office?

a) France b) Germany c) Japan

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 What type of bird has the ability to recognize patterns inside a larger sequence, like humans can?

11 What is the name of the invention for which Leanne Fan won the America's Top Young Scientist award?

a) Finsen goggles

b) Finsen headphones

c) Finsen rings

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? Pigs can recognize signs of conflict between other pigs.

True ☐ False ☐

13 What is the name of the long, slender loaf of bread that has become a cultural symbol of France?

14 Which team beat the US in the World Cup Round of 16?

a) Croatia b) The Netherlands c) Poland

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 The word "cookie" comes from a Dutch word that means what?

a) Little breads b) Little pies c) Little cakes

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

Editor-in-chief: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Gail O'Connor, Jennifer Li Shotz
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Group publisher: Paul Vizza (paul.vizza@futurenet.com)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (mary.gallagher@futurenet.com)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook

Reader submissions: hello@theweekjunior.com
Customer service: TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
Editorial news: news@theweekjunior.com
New subscriptions: theweekjunior.com
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Adored by readers, trusted by teachers, and secretly read by parents, *The Week Junior* is the perfect holiday gift.

Every week, our readers devour pages full of thought-provoking articles, eye-catching photos, and big ideas — addressed to them and delivered right to their home. It's amazing to see how kids engage and what they are inspired to express, think about, and do.

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ROYAL RESIDENCE

The Zianide Royal Palace was built in the 13th century as the home of the Zayyanid dynasty, which ruled parts of what is now Algeria.